**Austin Genealogical Society**

**December 9, 2021**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Attending:** Diane Harvey, Pat Murphree, Tracey Marcelo, Elizabeth Price, Richard Gruetzner, Debbie U, Karen Liston

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm. No quorum, so no votes will be taken.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Elizabeth reported that Nov. financial reports will be emailed tonight. She expressed concern about how to show income for membership dues for 2022 that we have already received. It looks like we have a large surplus, but it is for 2022 usage. Also concern that it will be a problem as we are a nonprofit. Karen said that we can show a profit for a year, knowing that the surplus is earmarked for a future expense (speaker fees, meeting room rental, etc.)

Erin Garcia (former treasurer) has told Elizabeth that she will help her with creating 2022 budget. Elizabeth will check with Erin regarding tax filing.

**Technology Report:**

Max sent out a status email this afternoon that all incoming board members have access to Slack, Google Share Drive, and have AGS email addresses. The website review (of plug-ins etc) is in process.

**Communications Report:**

Diane sent out our first newsletter via Vertical Response and we discovered some kinks. A few people didn’t receive the newsletter. We still do not know why. We also discovered that there is a variable time lag between when we submit an email through VP and when it actually goes out. Apparently VP is reviewing all outgoing messages and approving.

Diane would like for multiple people to be writing various blurbs for the newsletter and then have Belinda organize it, make it look good and put it out for distribution.

Diane reported that the vote for the new logo has concluded with choice #3 being the winner. Belinda may be able to make a few of the tweeks several members had suggested via Karen (slightly thicker font for easier readability when small, fewer leaves for clarity when small, and maybe fewer roots).

**Membership Report:**

Karen reported that we have 118 members for 2022 already, 15 life and 103 paying. Of the 103 paying, 82 are renewals (about 40% of 2021 members have renewed) and 21 are new members! Nearly all members are local. There was discussion about doing a Facebook ad seeking members, but concluded that the last time we did a FB ad, we didn’t get much return for it. For now, Karen will do a FB post on AGS Events page and on AGS Members Helping Members page advertising member signup.

**Programs Report:**

Pat reported that previously decided meeting topics/speakers for January, February, March and May are still confirmed. She has emailed Melissa Barker to see if she will speak about archiving practices for our April meeting. Melissa has not responded yet.

Diane and Pat discussed issues with contract template editing and signing. Currently on shared drive as a Word document. Pat can not properly edit with her Mac computer. Diane will work on solution.

**Austin Archives Bazaar:**

They contacted Diane to see if AGS wants to participate in 2022 Bazaar, Sunday, April 24, 2022 noon – 4pm at a beer garden (?) in South Austin. Board agreed it would be a great opportunity to participate. Diane will submit the initial interest form. Board will consider in more detail in January.

**Book Donations:**

Diane reported that this has been popular with members, but there are still lots of books stored in her house!! Elizabeth reported that she and a cousin could probably deliver whatever books go to the Clayton Library. Tracey will email the Texas State Library to see if they are interested in some of the remaining books. Debbie thought some of the area colleges and university libraries might be interested. Diane asked Debbie to check that idea out. Diane will contact the Friends of the Clayton Library to let them know we will give members a couple more weeks to make final selections before bringing books to them.

**By-laws:**

Richard has taken a look at the current by-laws. He will type up his notes and put them on the shared drive. Revising the by-laws will be a priority in early 2022.

**Board Meeting Dates:**

January 13, February 10, March 10, and April 14, all via Zoom.